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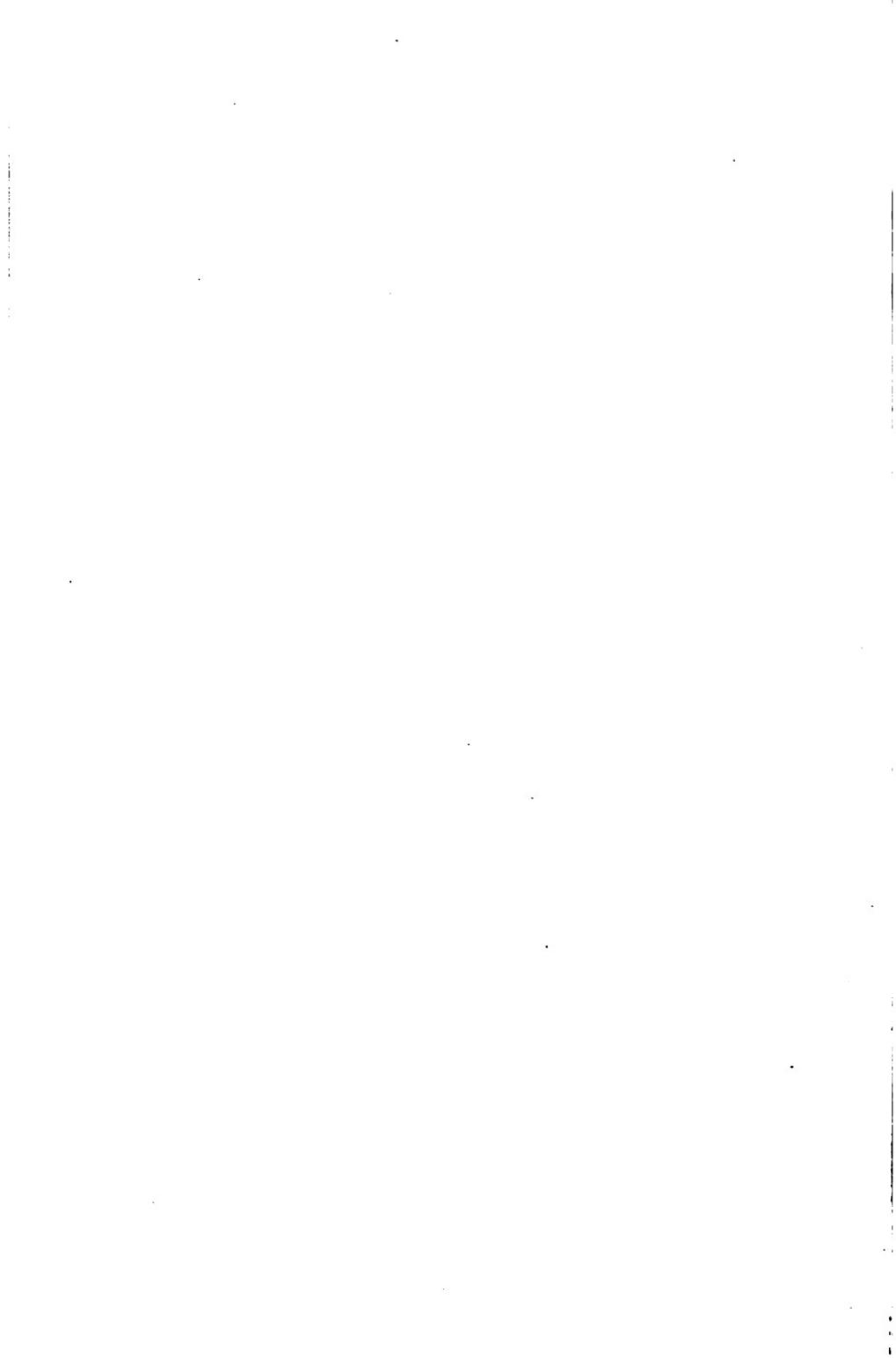
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# SONNETS

AND

## A DREAM

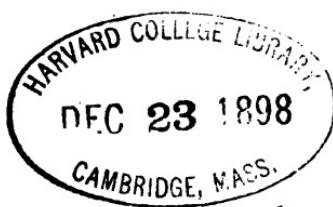
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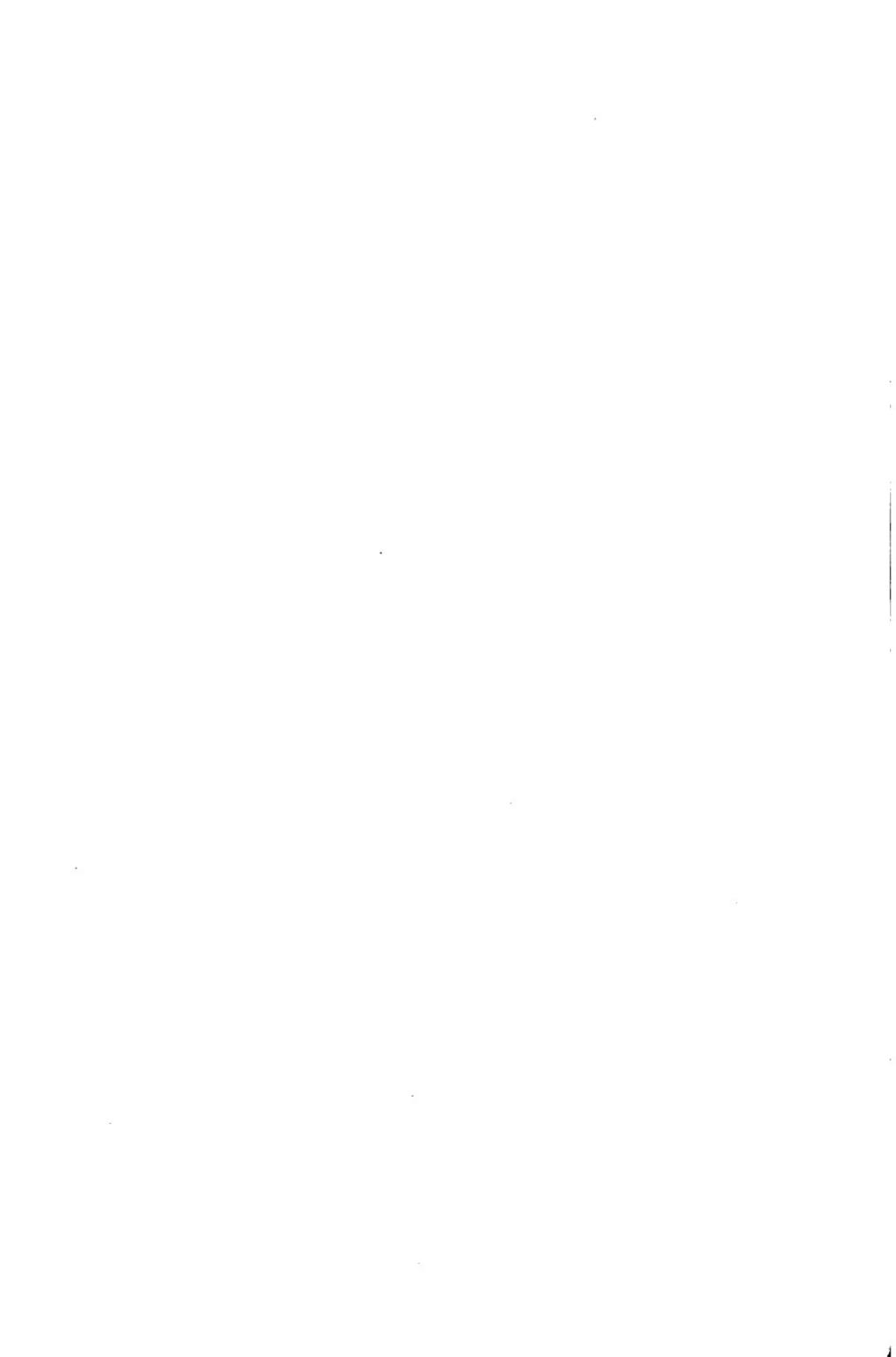
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W. R. H.



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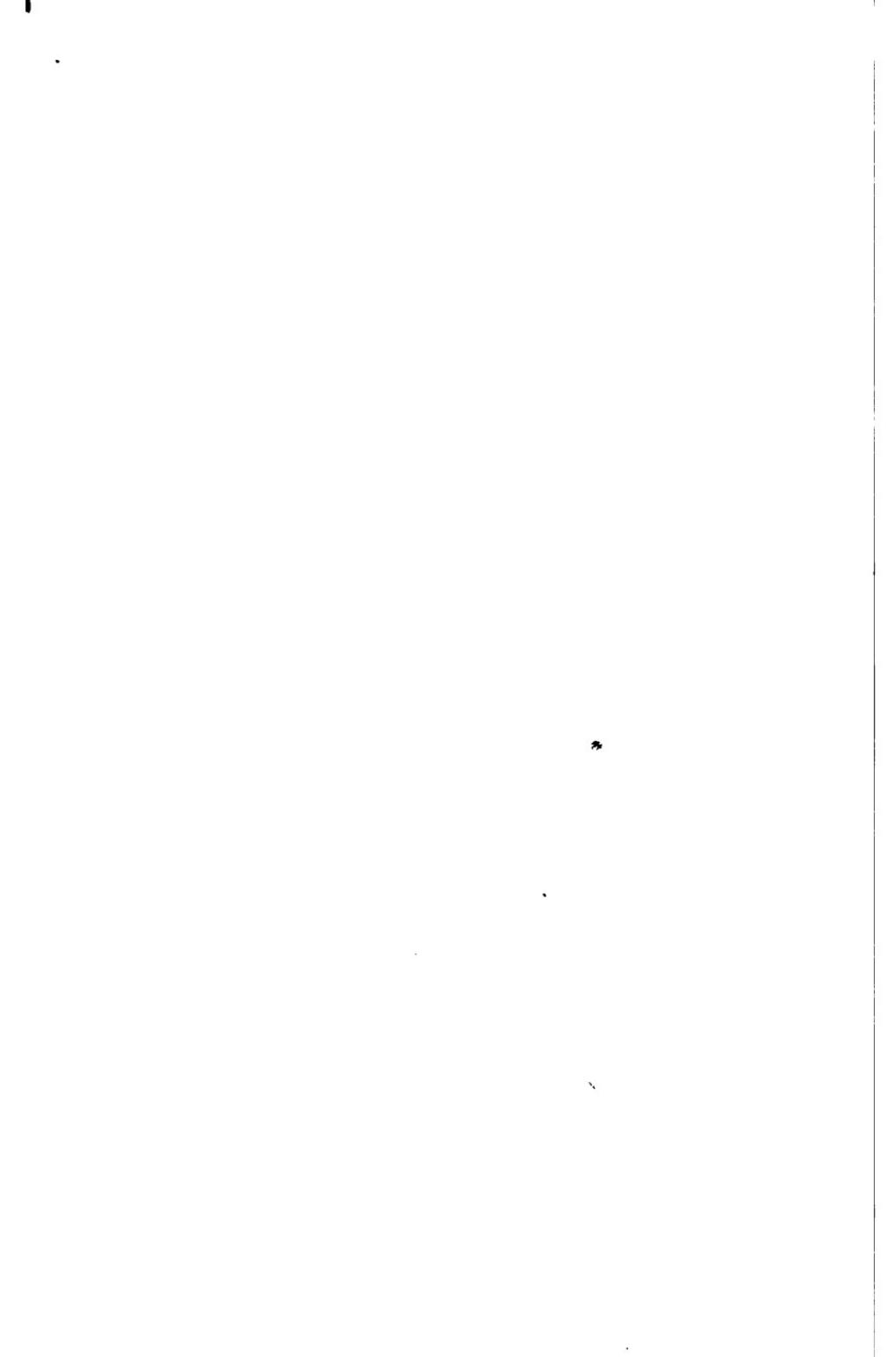
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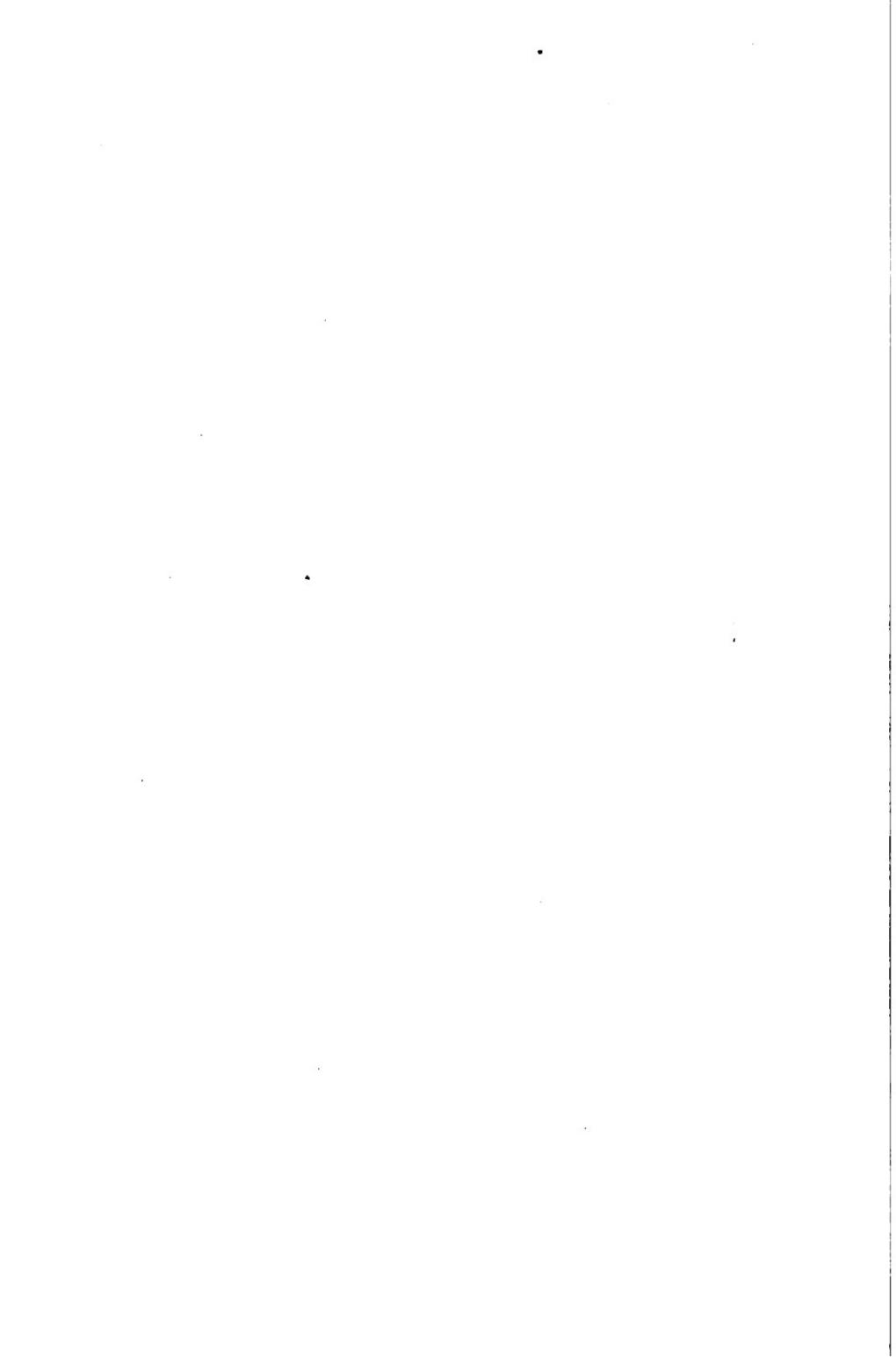
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**SONNETS.**



**SONNETS OF EARTH AND SKY.**



## TELLUS.

Why here, on this third planet from the Sun,  
Fret we and smite against our prison-bars ?  
Why not in Saturn, Mercury, or Mars  
Mourn we our sins, the things undone and done ?  
Where was the soul's bewildering course begun ?  
In what sad land among the scattered stars  
Wrought she the ill which now for ever scars  
By bitter consequence each victory won ?  
I know not, dearest friend, yet this I see,  
That thou for holier fellowships wast meant.  
Through some strange blunder thou art here ; and we  
Who on the convict ship were hither sent,  
By judgment just, must not be named with thee  
Whose tranquil presence shames our discontent.

## THE COLD METEORITE.

While through our air thy kindling course was run  
A momentary glory filled the night ;  
The envious stars shone fainter, for thy light  
Garnered the wealth of all their fires in one.  
Ah, short-lived splendor ! journey ill-begun !  
Half-buried in the Earth that broke thy flight,  
No longer in thy broidered raiment dight,  
Here liest thou dishonored, cold, undone.  
“ Nay, critic mine, far better ‘t is to die  
“ The death that flashes gladness, than alone,  
“ In frigid dignity, to live on high ;  
“ Better in burning sacrifice be thrown  
“ Against the world to perish, than the sky  
“ To circle endlessly a barren stone.”

## LOVE'S ORBIT.

The punctual Earth unto the self-same bound  
Whence she essayed, a twelve-month gone, to run  
Her planetary course about the sun,  
To-day returneth, having filled her round.  
Yet in her heart no fretful thought is found  
That she must needs re-seek the prizes won,  
Afresh begin the task so oft begun ;  
Joyous she hears the starter's trumpet sound.  
So, sweet heart, though Love's travel, year by year,  
Must ever through remembered spaces lie,  
Streaked with monotony of day and night,—  
Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter,—have no fear ;  
For we shall love Love's orbit, thou and I,  
And in the blessed sameness find delight.

## AUTHORITY.

Launched upon ether float the worlds secure.  
Naught hath the truthful Maker to conceal.  
No trestle-work of adamant or steel  
Is that high firmament where these endure.  
Patient, majestic, round their cynosure  
In secular procession see them wheel ;  
Self-poised, but not self-centered, for they feel  
In each tense fibre one all conquering lure.  
And need I fret me, Father, for that Thou  
Dost will the weightiest verities to swing  
On viewless orbits ? Nay, henceforth I cleave  
More firmly to the CREDO ; and my vow  
With readier footstep to thine altar bring,  
As one who counts it freedom to believe.

**SONNETS OF COUNTRY.**



## “DOES AMERICA HATE ENGLAND?”

1897.

Dare to love England? And to say so? Yes.  
Though the Celt rage, and every half-breed scowl;  
Though Hun and Finn and Russ and Polack howl  
Their malediction, coddled by a Press  
Alert at cursing, indolent to bless,  
Unheedy which shall prosper, fair or foul,  
So that the trough run over, and a growl  
Of fierce approval soothe its restlessness.  
For from thy loins, O Mother, sped the souls  
That dreamed the greater England. Not in vain  
Their sweat of blood. To-day the smoke-cloud rolls  
Off high Quebec, while from the Spanish Main  
The requiem-bell of buried empire tolls,—  
Their old world's loss, our new world's affluent gain.

## THE WHITE SQUADRON.

1897.

Far in the offing, sharp against the blue,  
Six firm-webbed, stately swans they hold their way,  
Skirting Mount Désert of an August day,  
Cruiser and battleship in sequence due,  
On dress-parade, slow-steaming for review.  
Which destiny is theirs? Only to play  
At war? Or likelier, shall we say,  
For cause, at last, their long reserve break through?  
Yet, should the guns of the Republic speak,  
I would they spake with judgment. Be their lips  
Mutely indifferent to the Jingo's nod,  
Stern towards the cruel, potent for the weak,  
Aflame to guard the honor of the ships,  
And shotted with the arguments of God.

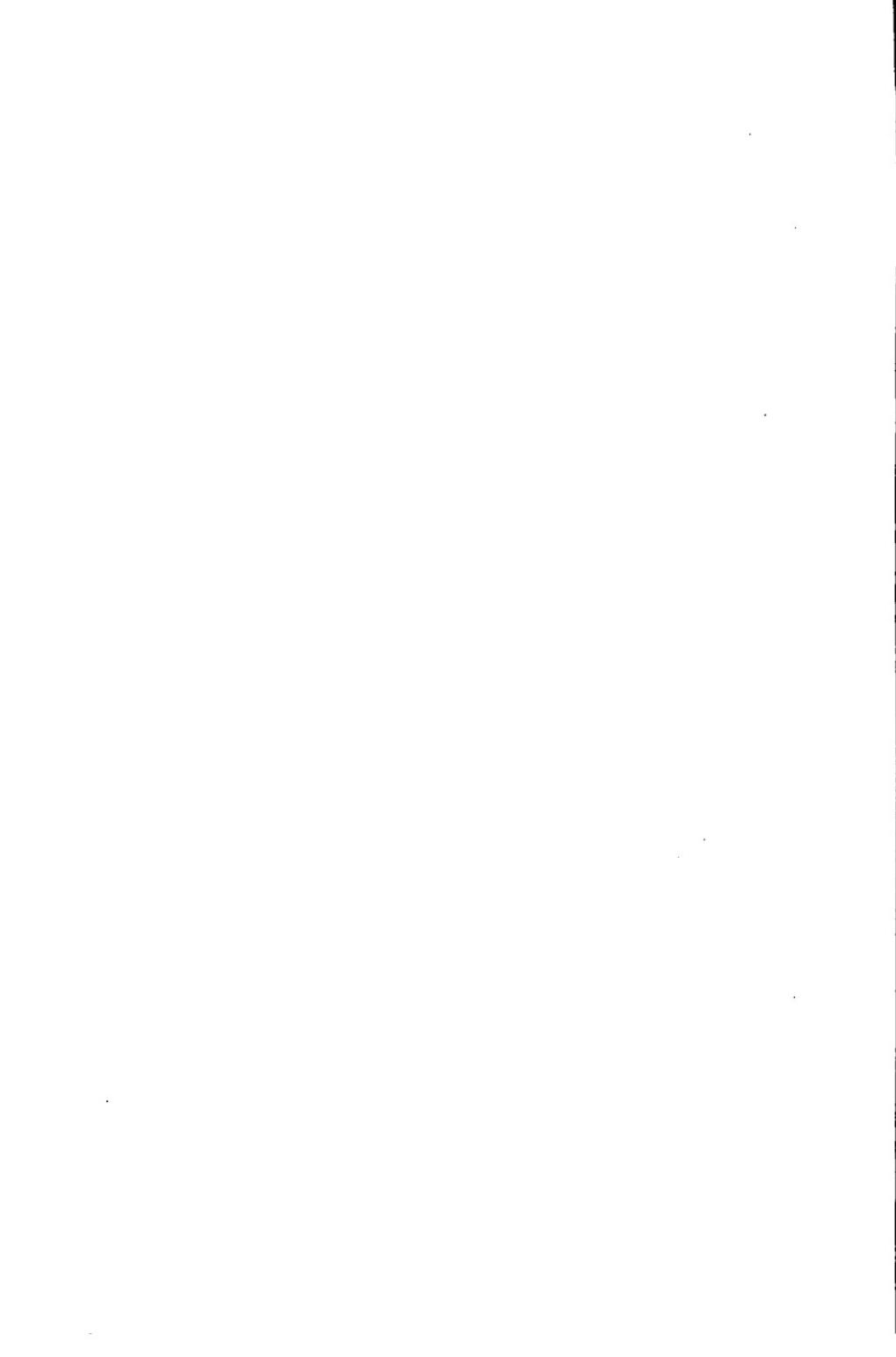
## AFTER SANTIAGO.

1898.

With folded arms, my Country, speak thy will.  
Clean be those hands of thine from smirch of trade.  
Let the sheathed sword hang idle. They persuade  
The baser course, who, not content to kill,  
Would carve out cantles of the spoil, and fill  
The sacred edge of that victorious blade  
With stain of plunder. Never was there made  
The sword that could be knife and weapon still.  
Thou sawest God's angel at the anvil stand  
And forge the steel. He smote it blow on blow.  
Wrathful he seemed ; yet ever from above  
He stooped, the while, and swiftly dipt the brand  
In tears, yea, tears ; that he might make thee know  
How vain were vengeance unannealed by love.



**SONNETS OF  
DOUBT AND FAITH.**



### “NO MORE SEA.”

Unrest my birthright is. I cannot choose  
    But rock and toss at angry ocean's will.  
For if, at times, my shallop lying still  
Seem somewhat of its restlessness to lose,  
'T is but a sign that balanced on the wave  
    It for a moment hangs, the next to fall  
    Deep in the trough where many a dolorous call  
Of tempest-voices mocks the untimely grave.  
Meanwhile, I sit beside the helm and mark  
    The scanty stars that peer amid the rifts ;  
Nor loosen hold ; it may be that my barque  
    Shall come at last to where God's city lifts  
Her lucid walls, and beckoneth through the dark ;  
    “There shall be no more sea,” her best of gifts.

## FREE WILL?

Eastward the vessel plunged ; her high-flung spray  
A trysting-place for rainbows ; every thrill  
And throb of the huge monster winning still  
For the tossed cloud some newly-broken ray  
From the cold sunshine of that autumn day ;  
Type, thought I, of the phantasies which fill  
These hearts of ours, persuading that “I will”  
Is somewhat other than plain “I obey.”  
Then, ere the prow had scaled another ridge,  
Murmuring “At least this deck’s length must be  
free,”  
And thinking to pique Fate by counter-choice,  
Westward I walked ; but Fate still conquered me ;  
“Due East !” the captain thundered from the  
bridge.  
“Due East it is, Sir,” came the steersman’s voice.

*ANIMA NATURALITER CHRISTIANA.*

(Tertullian : *Apologia*, c. XVII.)

High in a corner of my study, glooms  
A nut-brown corbel, rough-hewn out of teak,  
From some far island fetched where traders seek  
Wealth of rare spices, languorous perfumes,  
Gems, and the silken yield of antique looms  
By dusky fingers tended. With her beak  
Deep in her breast, a pelican, the meek  
Type of that mother-love which gladly dooms  
Itself to perish, if so be the brood  
Die not, is seen, puissant, trampling down  
Man's foe, the dragon. Surely the swart clown,  
Who skilled this marvel, mystic vision caught  
Of that which precious makes the precious blood ;  
Proven a Christian by the work he wrought.

## Jael.

"Blessed above women shall Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite be, blessed shall she be above women in the tent." *Judges v, 24.*

What? "Blessed above women in the tent"  
Shall Jael, Heber's wife, the Kenite be?  
A murderer blessed? Nay, no murderer she;  
Judith and Charlotte on like errand went.  
Doubtless some angel of God's wrath had sent  
The tyrant to her, should his voiceless plea,—  
"I am thy guest," avail to hold him free  
From the sharp stroke of long-earned punishment?  
Nay, mercy for the merciless were waste;  
Not thus doth Israel's jealous God requite.  
Whoso sheds blood of man, upon his head  
Falls doom of blood. Then, stealthily, in haste,  
She grasped the hammer, smote the nail with might,  
And, lo, there at her feet lay Sisera dead.

## JAEL AND MARY.

"And the angel came in unto her and said, Hail thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." *St. Luke i, 28.*

Yes, Blessed above "women in the tent."

But Time hath struck the tent and built the home.

The benediction lapses. She is come  
Who sets the loftier mark. Old veils are rent,  
And far predictions cleared by late event.

As mist of morning, as the light sea-foam,  
Passes the glory of the tribes that roam,  
And all the force of Jael's blow is spent.  
Come Mary with thy lily, with thy dove;  
Thy better blessing, more effulgent day,  
Forgotten be the hammer and the nail,  
Come, guide us with the sceptre of thy love:  
Stronger the lips that plead than hands that slay.  
Kenite, Farewell! Mother of Jesus, Hail!

## RENUNCIATION.

I looked at sunset forth upon the lake,  
And said with scorn, “ ‘T is scarcely hard for them  
“ To boast their dullness and this world contemn  
“ Who love not beauty for her own sweet sake.  
“ But as for me a mightier Christ must wake  
“ In all my veins, and from his garment’s hem  
“ A virtue pass not hid in graven gem,  
“ Ere I such sweet enchantment can forsake.”  
For all the West was golden on the hill;  
And down the slope the boweréd gardens lay,  
With blossoms red, just silvered where the rill  
Dropt towards the lake, and dropping seemed to say,  
“ Cease thy vain struggle, self-deceivéd will;  
“ Thy fetters learn to love, thy fate obey.”

## VISITING GOD.

My duty towards God is to believe in Him, to fear Him, and to love Him, with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength : . . . . to call upon Him :  
*Church Catechism.*

“Towards God, what is thy duty, Margo dear?”

“My duty is to love Him,” she replied,

“With heart and mind and soul, with strength  
beside :

“To worship Him, to give Him thanks, to fear,

“To visit Him,”—“Nay, child, the word is here

“To ‘call on’ Him.” “Well, Auntie, have it so ;

“They mean the same.” Thus art thou taught to  
know,

Sad soul of mine, a lesson wondrous clear.

Grass-grown the path and tangle-tost with thorn,

That leadeth to his threshold Who hath said,—

“Come, for the feast is ready, come to Me.”

For I have feared Thee, Father, and forlorn

Have dwelt afar, an-hungered for thy bread ;

But now, heart-whole, I rise to “visit” Thee.

## THE FACE OF THINGS.

I hearkened to the preacher from his perch  
Glibly declaring the great Maker good ;  
The ban a blessing if but understood ;  
The frown a smile ; the seeming-evil lurch  
Of Nature's gait a steady walk to church,  
Did we but read her motions as we should.  
God had made all things beautiful,—and could  
A weightier proof of goodness crown our search ?  
I looked ;—a shaft of random sunshine, shot  
Across the listeners, chanced to smite a face,  
Alas, too well remembered. In the array  
Of loveliest women lovelier there is not,—  
And yet a tigress. “Priest,” I cried, “Thy case  
“Is argued ill ; the hard fact says thee Nay !”

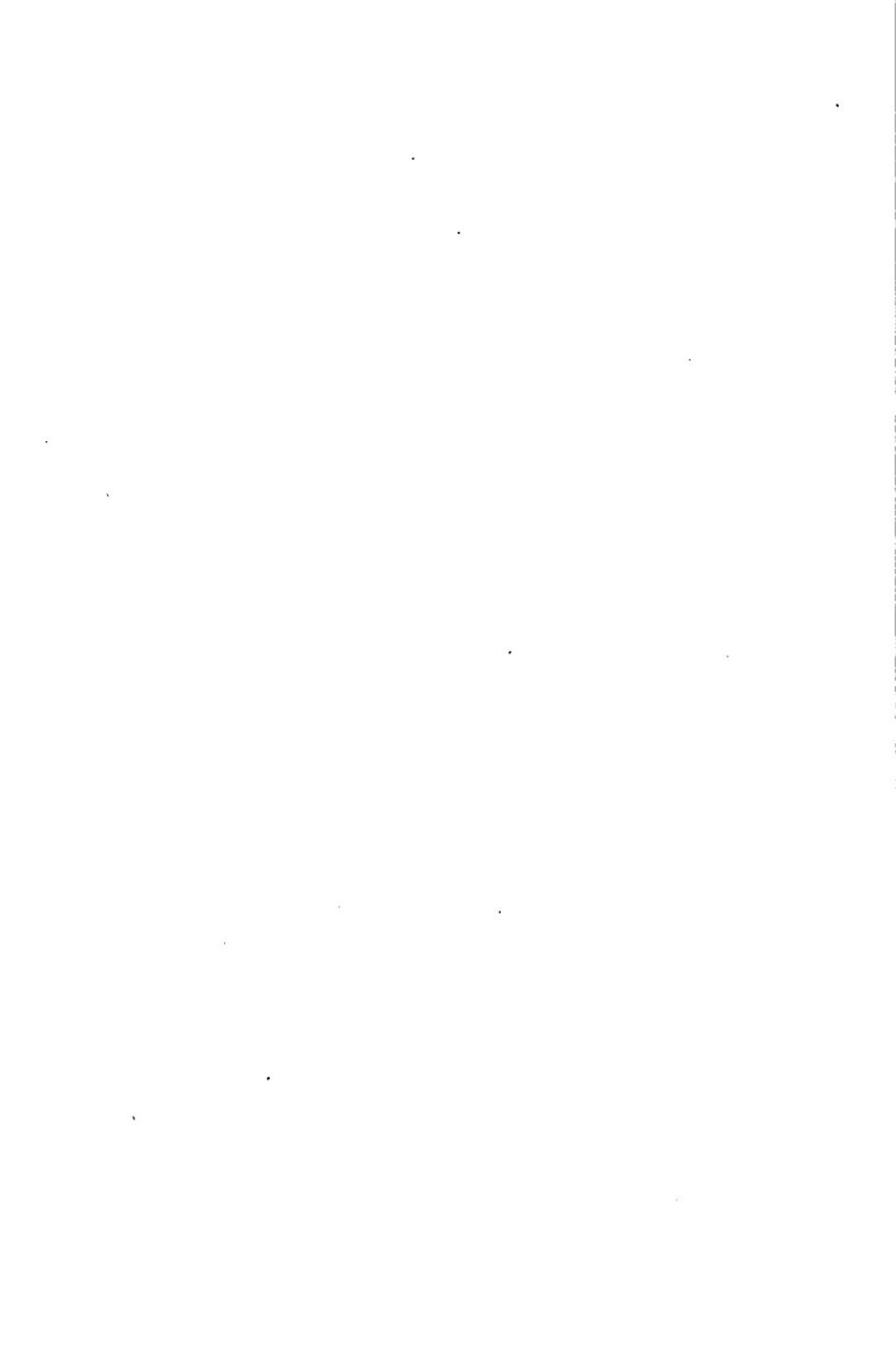
## THE HEART OF THINGS.

Thick sprang the briers about her tender feet,  
On either side and underneath they grew ;  
She murmured not, but with a courage true  
Pressed on as if the pathway had been sweet.  
And now and then she stooping plucked a thorn,  
And wove it in the meshes of her hair.  
“Hath she no gems that she should choose to wear  
“So sharp a diadem ?” they asked in scorn.  
But as she nears her journey’s ending, lo !  
A folded door is suddenly flung wide ;  
Out on the dark great waves of splendor flow,  
Flooding the thicket with effulgent tide.  
And now the pilgrim’s crown looks all aglow,  
The thorns still thorns, but, ah ! how glorified !

## LOWLANDS.

As one who goes from holding converse sweet  
In cloistered walls with great ones of the past,  
And steps, enwrapt in visions high and vast,  
To meet his fellows in the noisy street ;  
So we, descending from the mountain's height,  
Feel strange discordance in the world below.  
Is this the calm that there enchanted so ?  
It cannot be that we beheld aright.  
But courage ! not for ever on the mount ;  
Far oftener in the valley must we move ;  
The things that lie about us learn to love,  
And for the work allotted us account ;  
Content if, now and then, we track above  
The tumbling waters to their placid fount.

## **SONNETS OF FRIENDSHIP.**



## LATE HARVESTS.

Three-score and ten have ripened to four-score ;  
The shadows longer reach ; the sunset nears ;  
But He who fills the measure of thy years  
Full to the brim, pressed down and running o'er,  
Sows as He gathers, scatters while He reaps ;  
Counting the fruitage of the life we see  
Only as seed of harvests yet to be  
In the fair fields his loving-kindness keeps.  
To Him we look. To whom if not to Him ?  
For little hath He left in age to thee,  
And little hath He left in youth to me,  
Save his own promise that the eyes here dim  
With mists of sorrow shall have vision free,  
And lips now silent pour their morning hymn.

## ISAAC.

"And Isaac went out to meditate in the field at eventide."  
*Genesis xxiv, 63.*

A lonely spirit by sad thought opprest,  
With few to comfort, none to understand,  
The Son of Abram thirsted for the land  
Where there remaineth for God's people rest ;  
The far-off land beyond the sunset's glow,  
The golden land where happy saints abide,  
And oftentimes in the field at eventide  
He questioned with himself, and longed to go.  
Why should he tarry ? She whom best he knew  
Whom most he prized, whose love no shade of doubt  
Had ever touched, so fond it was and true,  
No more among the tents went in and out,  
But where the trees on Ephron's acre grew  
Lay silent, sepulchred by hands devout.

## ISAAC AND REBEKAH.

"And Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and took Rebekah and she became his wife; and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death."      *Genesis xxiv, 67.*

Upon his gloom her smile like sunshine fell;  
    Into his life her voice with music came;  
    From out dead embers sprang a living flame;  
The thirsty camels, at her father's well,  
Drank not more eagerly, beneath the spell  
    Of her sweet presence, waters that she drew,  
    Than he her love, whose worth none other knew,  
And known was wealthier than tongue might tell.  
Her meekness hallows every slightest deed,  
    Her quick compliance half-way meets his will,  
    Her anxious care foreknows his every need,  
    Her patience waits upon his weakness still.  
No longer sorrow's slave, now shall he lead  
    Such life as doth all righteousness fulfill.

## “AMONG THE KINGS.”

“And they buried him . . . among the kings.”

*II Chronicles xxiv, 16.*

“Yes, lay him down among the royal dead.

“His steady hand no more the censer swings.

“For kingly was he, though a priest,” they said.  
Great-hearted friend ! thee, too, we counted bred

For priesthood loftier than the tardy wings

Of souls content with songs the caged bird sings  
Are wont to soar to. Thine it was to wed

Far-sundered thoughts in amity complete ;

With Christ’s own freedom fettered minds to free ;

To thrid the darkling paths where timid feet

Faltered and slipped. Oh, it was not in thee

To blanch at any peril ! Then most meet

That thou among the kings shouldst buried be.

## CYPRESS AND HOLLY.

Across the voice of children piping clear  
Their welcome carols to the Prince of Peace,  
Broke sudden-sharp a cry that bade us cease  
From wreath and song and all the season's cheer;  
For lo ! unto our feast had one drawn near  
Who with the Christmas angels mateth ill ;  
And there had faded from that presence chill  
A life just made by new life doubly dear.  
Then through the church of All Saints, now most still,  
This sentence sounded on a listening ear :  
“Peace ! It is well ! Even thus must she fulfill  
“His purpose whom we worship without fear.  
“The first of brides to speak her promise here,  
“She leaves us at the Heavenly Bridegroom’s will.”

## THE HOUSE MOTHER OF ST. FAITH'S.

The throne, the crown, the sceptre,—have we lost,  
In losing these, the queen? I tell you Nay.  
Vanished the baubles, but in endless stay  
Abides the queenship; holding not by boast  
Of armored fleet, or quartered shield or ghost  
Of right divine or by a long array  
Of maxims of the law, but in their way  
Who seeming least to rule us, rule us most.  
Her crown a circlet of transfigured thorn,  
Her throne the lowliest seat, her rod  
A southern lily, and her realm a home,—  
She lived among us queen by grace of God  
Unto the purple through the spirit born.  
Hearken ye, daughters! Hear ye not her “Come”?

## THE PLOUGH IN THE FURROW.

Friend of the open hand, the genial eye,  
The lip that faltered never,—where art thou?  
We cannot think thee idle, though the plough  
Half-way the furrow thus forsaken lie.  
Thou didst not loose thy grasp for lack of high  
And purposeful endeavor, for till now  
No laggard glance from under that clear brow  
Fell backwards cast. Oh, why then wouldest thou die?  
Thus broke the answer: “God hath other fields  
“Than those ye know. His sunlight and his rain  
“Fall not alone on the remembered earth;  
“But here, as there, the duteous harvest yields  
“Reward to all; and I am glad again,  
“Tilling the land of this my newer birth.”

## FROM GREEN MOUNTAIN.

### I.

Two seas our eyes beheld—one dark, one light ;  
And one above the other ; for a screen  
Of billowy cloud lay, level-poised, between  
Ocean and sky, in undulation white  
As snows of Zembla. Half-way up the height  
That caps Mount Désert, spell-bound by the scene,  
We stood and marvelled. Had there ever been,  
Since Israel's pilgrim march, so weird a sight ?  
Meanwhile the sailors, beating to and fro  
On shadowed waters, dreamed not of the still,  
Pellucid beauty of that upper day ;  
Their captive eyes saw only from below,  
While we, from our sheer lookout on the hill,  
Scanned either level, happier-placed than they.

## FROM GREEN MOUNTAIN.

### II.

Brief our advantage ; presently the sun,  
    Nearing the noon-mark, gathered all his might,  
        And smote those vapors till they broke in flight ;  
Not hastily, for panic there was none,  
    But with slow movement Eastward, one by one,  
        The cloud battalions drifted from our sight,  
            Till everywhere, from verge to verge, was light ;  
And those below saw clear, as we had done.  
    God shows enfranchised spirits, such as thine,  
        Dear friend, dear brother, who beside me stood  
            That morning on the mount, both sides of things ;  
The dim, the bright ; the earthly, the divine.  
    Spirits in shadow see but one. Oh, would  
        The days were born of which the Sibyl sings !

## GARONDA.

“Peace to this house.” More quick than echoes are,  
Attendant voices bring the sure reply.  
“Peace,” sings the brook. “Peace,” the great  
fir-trees sigh.  
“Peace,” say the ancient mountains from afar,—  
While broods above their purple rim the star  
Earliest to trespass on the evening sky,  
As if intent to utter, ere she die,  
A blessing earth might neither make nor mar.  
Garonda, to these benedictions grand  
Would I mine own in humble sequence add,—  
May He who maketh sorrowful, yet maketh glad,  
Bless thee with blessings more than we can dream;  
“Gate of the mountains,” opened by that hand,  
Thou a Gate beautiful shalt grow to seem.

## THE GOLDEN WEDDING.

Not like the alchemist in mystic cell  
Attent on transmutation, make we bold  
By sudden touch to startle into gold  
What common were, did not such stroke compel.  
But, as the wand of evening knows full well  
How from slant sunbeams when the clouds are  
rolled  
Against the West to draw the tints they hold,  
(Hues unresponsive to noon's feebler spell,)  
So from the wealth of half a hundred years,  
The stored up love of household and of kin,  
The total of all wedlock's joys and tears,  
Time lures, to-day, the lustre hid within.  
What slumbered wakes, what latent was appears,  
For, lo, these lives have alway golden been.



**THE CHILD'S SUPREMACY.  
A DREAM.**



## THE CHILD'S SUPREMACY.

A DREAM.

From ridge to ridge of ocean, all day long,  
Lifted and pushed by giant arms and strong  
Full puffs of giant breath, our ship had sped  
With only blue beneath and blue o'erhead.  
Then, as I westward gazing watched the day  
In brightening color burn its life away,  
My thought ran out beyond the twilight rim  
Breathed into shape half canzonet, half hymn.

### I.

Ah ! whither moves the world, and who is King ?  
I hear the click of wheels, and mark  
The solemn pendulum of Nature swing  
From dark to light, from light to dark,  
And wonder Who is King ?

II.

Ah ! whither moves the world, and who is King ?  
Tell me, ye mountains, stands the throne  
In some high solitude where eagle's wing  
Or the wild goat's quick foot alone  
May find the hidden thing ?

III.

Ah ! whither moves the world, and who is King ?  
Thou watchful star that dost patrol  
The regions of the twilight, canst thou bring,  
Through heavenly space, my vision to the goal  
Of earth's long wandering ?

IV.

Ah ! whither moves the world, and who is King ?  
Doth iron Doom the sceptre keep ?  
Or golden Love ? No answer can I wring  
From earth or sky. Mysterious Deep,  
Dost thou know Who is King ?

---

Scarce had the sea-breeze snatched the questioning cry,  
Before a voice, not loud, but wondrous clear,  
And heavenly sweet withal, gave back reply,—

“Voyager, take heart. The Hand that holds the  
sphere

“Shall wisely guide. The night is deepening here;  
“But pass with me yon faint horizon’s ring  
“And thine own eyes shall tell thee who is King.”

Eager to catch the fashion of a lip  
Whose spoken word such gentle trespass made,  
I instant turned; when, lo, the laboring ship,  
As if a mystic spell were on her laid,  
Began straightway to shrivel, shrink, and fade,  
And masts and spars and shrouds and smoke-stack all,  
As in a sick man’s dream, grew small, and small;

Until within a tiny skiff alone,  
Still heading towards the East, I seemed to be,  
How moved I know not, up that pathway strewn  
With spangles of bright silver, largess, She,  
Empress of waters, Queen of oceans three,  
Flings from her chariot to the subject waves,  
To charm them to forget themselves her slaves.

Thus o'er the darkling reaches of the sea  
We shot our moonlit course, the Voice and I,  
For though he spake no other word to me,  
By subtlest sympathy I knew him nigh,  
As friends who sit and watch the embers die  
On some old hearth-stone, all the closer feel,  
While night and silence slowly on them steal.

Full on the bow at last rose up a cliff,—  
An island-cliff, majestic, solemn, lone :  
And much I marvelled, Would my fragile skiff  
Be shattered on the inhospitable stone,  
And all my hope of looking on the throne  
Be shattered too, and I, a shipwrecked thing,  
Perish forlorn, nor ever see the King ?

Then, as I braced me for the approaching shock,  
And through the dimness strained my eyes to see  
If anywhere the edges of the rock  
Gave hope of foothold or escape for me ;  
A sudden clearness set my vision free,  
And I beheld the cliff's huge frontage wrought  
With carven imagery more fair than thought.

A palace-temple builded high it stood,  
And all its lines shone lucid through the night,  
Pouring their radiance o'er the unquiet flood,  
Until the very wave-tops, 'neath the might  
Of a new influence enchanted quite,  
Sank down, content to lie and bask awhile  
In slumbrous idleness before the isle.

Then had my eye full leisure to take in  
The marvellous beauty of the fabric's plan,  
Though still I failed to guess had Nature been  
The easy builder there, or toilsome Man.  
In such wild symmetry the outline ran,  
Surely the forest's Architect, I said,  
Hath done this thing, yet Man remembered.

Meantime my boat across that tranquil space  
Shot gently-swift towards where the eye looked  
through  
A porch magnifical, in all the grace  
Of just proportion lifted, and to view  
Like rock-ribbed Staffa's basalt avenue,  
Whence issuing with wild scream the frightened gull  
Seeks calm Iona o'er the waves of Mull.

But on the moment when the pointed prow  
Touched soft the threshold of that portal fair,  
The voice that had been silent until now  
Bade me alight and climb the gradual stair  
Which in and upwards rose before me there.  
“For soon,” he said, “thy footsteps shall I bring  
“Into the very presence of the King.”

Then quickly I alighted, and I clomb,  
Half-sad, half-glad, the stair, ascending slow,  
In tremulous joy as one who to his home  
Comes from long absence, fever-sick to know  
Whether there wait within some deadening blow  
Of grief untold, or whether he shall hear  
The children’s laughter ringing loud and clear.

When to the topmost step I came at last,  
Two massive doors in curious sculpture wrought  
Swung slowly on their hinges, and I passed  
Within that place. Ah, how shall I be taught  
To tell in language of this earth the thought  
With which that vision did my being bless,  
Of pure, unutterable loveliness.

No pavement of insensate stone I trod,  
But smooth and soft and beautiful it lay,  
An emerald-hued, sweet, daisy-sprinkled sod,  
Most like the flooring of that minster gray  
Whose roofless walls stand open to the day,  
Whilst chattering rooks the ivied windows throng,  
And from the Wye comes back the boatman's song.

From out the turf sprang tree-like pillars tall,  
Whose topmost branches interlaced o'erhead,  
Made the high ceiling of that wondrous hall,  
So high, the firmament itself outspread  
Scarce higher seems when on his mountain bed  
Amidst the heather doth the shepherd lie  
And wakeful watch night's golden flock go by.

Through all the place there floated mystic light,  
That seemed not born of sun, or moon, or star ;  
And whatsoever thing it touched, grew bright  
As the snow-caps on distant mountains are,  
When up their outer slope the hidden car  
Of rosy morning clammers, and the pale,  
Chill spectres of the mist desert the vale.

And in and out among the pillars walked  
Groups of fair forms who seemed familiar there,  
And to each other in low murmurs talked,  
And cheerily the birds sang every where ;  
And all, I knew, were joyous, for the air,  
Laden with gladness, redolent of balm,  
Into the very soul breathed mystic calm.

No painted blazonry the windows held,  
But out through broad fenestral arches ran  
Deep vistas rich with all the life of eld,  
So ordered that the curious eye might scan  
Whate'er had happened since the world began,  
And pictured see, in true perspective cast,  
The long tumultuous epic of the past.

Here frowned the rough beginnings of the earth,  
Grim monsters, growths of that forgotten day,  
When first the brute came hideous to birth,  
And wallowing, gorged with surfeit of the prey,  
Dragon and saurian 'mid the rushes lay,  
To watch dull-eyed the burdened storm-cloud creep  
Angry and low across the untraversed deep.

Elsewhere beheld, embattled armies met,  
And squadrons wheeled, and pennons shook afar ;  
Here flashed the lance and there the bayonet ;  
Now Greek, now Roman, drove the conquering car ;  
And now the sword beat down the scimitar,  
And through the cities of the sacred coast  
The mailed crusader smote the Paynim host.

Then was I sad to see how all the life  
That had been lived on earth was full of woe ;  
How brute with brute, and man with man, at strife  
Had wrought themselves perpetual overthrow ;  
And the tears started, “ Shall I ever know  
“ Pain’s mystery ? ” I asked, in querulous tone.  
“ Peace,” said the Voice, “ thou hast not seen the  
throne.”

With that, I turned me from the pictured past,  
The griefs and glories of all time gone by,  
And eastward up that presence-chamber vast,  
Expectant gazed, when burst upon my eye  
The throne itself, yes, lifted up and high  
There stood the throne, with cloud-like glories piled,  
And on it sat the King,—a little child.

A little child of form supremely fair,  
All kingliness plain writ upon his face,  
I could not choose but give Him homage there ;  
One hand I saw a lily-sceptre grace,  
And one was lift in blessing on the place.  
Close to his feet a tender lamb had crept,  
The lion's tawny whelp beside it slept.

As wells the sea in cool Acadia's bay,  
With sudden impulse, full, majestic, strong,  
Each nook and hollow flooding on its way,  
Swept, while I looked, an affluent tide of song.  
Far off the choirs began it, then the throng  
Beneath the arches gathered caught the strain  
And the loud antiphon rolled back amain.

#### SONG.

The weary world at war,  
Too sad to sing,  
Knows not how, throned afar,  
The little child is King ;

But frightened kneels to pay  
A worship cold  
To giant hands that may  
Such reins of empire hold.

(*Antiphon.*)

O foolish world, to lie,  
And dream so ill !  
O hapless man, whose eye  
Such cheating visions fill !  
So, singing still, we pray,  
And praying sing,  
Haste, Child, the golden day  
When all shall know thee King.

The tramp of armies shakes  
The trembling earth,  
From field and fortress breaks  
A smothered flame to birth ;  
Across our tranquil light  
The flashes fly,  
As on a summer's night  
Pale, voiceless lightnings die.

(*Antiphon.*)

The lips that curse shall bless.  
Sad earth, at length  
Thou shalt see gentleness  
O'er master strength,  
Thy multitudinous voice  
Our anthem ring :  
Rejoice ! Rejoice ! Rejoice !  
The little child is King.

• • • • •

Then to their rope the laughing sailors turned  
And hove the log, while all the furrow burned  
In phosphorescent splendor, and the white  
Auroral spear-tops hedged the North with light.





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